

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 SNM-02 SS-14 SP-02 L-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4445

STADIS/LIMDIS////////////////////////////////

FOLLOWING MESSAGE REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L IZMIR 116

STADIS/LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: LOCAL OFFICIALS' THOUGHTS ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN  
AFYON AND USAK PROVINCES.

SUMMARY: PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN USAK AND AFYON SAY OPIUM  
CROP IS EXCELLENT THIS YEAR AND EFFORTS TO PREVENT LEAKAGE  
TO ILLEGAL CHANNELS WILL BE EFFECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. JUNE 4 POLOFF MADE BRIEF TRIP TO OPIUM PRODUCING PROV-  
INCES OF AFYON AND USAK TO DISCUSS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS  
STATUS OF POPPY CROP AND OF GOT EFFORTS TO KEEP OPIUM FROM  
LEAKING INTO ILLEGAL CHANNELS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS  
OF THOSE CONVERSATIONS.

A) CROP IS EXCELLENT. HEAVY SPRING RAINS CAUSED SOME  
DAMAGE IN AFYON AND WILL DELAY HARVEST, BUT IN GENERAL FIELDS  
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ARE FULL AND LUSH IN BOTH PROVINCES. BLOSSOMS HAVE ALREADY

DROPPED FROM POPPIES IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN USAK AND PLANTS SHOULD BE READY FOR HARVEST BY END OF JUNE. IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN AFYON HARVEST WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN LATE JULY. B) FARMERS ARE PLEASED WITH NEW METHOD OF HARVESTING. (MAYOR OF USAK COMMENTED THAT ONLY FARMERS OPPOSED TO NEW METHOD ARE THOSE WHO WANTED TO SELL ILLEGALLY.) BOTH GOVERNORS AND MAYORS MADE POINT THAT HARVESTING DRIED CAPSULE RATHER THAN INCISING CAPSULE AND GATHERING GUM OPIUM IS CHEAPER AND LESS RISKY FOR INDIVIDUAL FARMERS. MOST FARMERS ALLEGEDLY AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSITION ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS AGREE THAT ULTIMATELY THE DEGREE OF THEIR HAPPINESS WITH NEW SYSTEM WILL BE DETERMINED BY PRICE FARMER RECEIVES FOR DRIED CAPSULES.

C) THE GOVERNORS AND MAYORS ARE CONFIDENT CONTROL SYSTEM WILL PREVENT SIGNIFICANT LEAKAGE OF OPIUM INTO ILLEGAL CHANNELS. THE AFYON GOVERNOR SAID INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM SET UP BY GOT IS VERY COMPREHENSIVE. PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN HIS OPINION IS A NET OF INFORMANTS WHICH EXTENDS TO VIRTUALLY EVERY VILLAGE. THE USAK GOVERNOR SAID THAT INSPECTION AND CONTROL EFFORTS IN HIS PROVINCE HAD RESULTED IN THE DESTRUCTION DURING LAST FEW WEEKS OF 174 ILLEGALLY GROWN PLOTS OF POPPIES. MOST OF THESE PLOTS WERE ILLEGAL BECAUSE THE FARMERS' APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES HAD NOT BEEN PROCESSED PROPERLY AND THE FARMERS HAD PLANTED WITHOUT LICENSES. THE GOVERNOR SAID INSPECTION TEAMS WITH 40 EXTRA VEHICLES ARE NOW IN USAK AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL THE HARVEST IS COMPLETED. THIS IS CRUCIAL PERIOD IN LOWER ELEVATIONS SINCE CAPSULES WILL BE RIPE FOR INCISION WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. CONTROL PROGRAM PARTICULARLY INTENSIVE NOW AND INCLUDES AERIAL PHOTOS FROM A LIGHT AIRCRAFT.

2. COMMENTS: WHILE BOTH GOVERNORS AND MAYORS WERE NATURALLY ANXIOUS TO CONVINCE A VISITING AMERICAN OFFICIAL THAT THE CONTROL SYSTEM WILL WORK, NONE OF THEM CLAIMED IT WAS FOOLPROOF. THEY BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT MOST VIOLATIONS WILL BE INSIGNIFICANT, I.E., A FEW CAPSULES INCISED IN A PLOT TO PROVIDE THE FAMILY WITH ITS TRADITIONAL FOLK MEDICINE. THEY ALSO SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THE ENORMITY OF THE PROBLEM OF CONTROLLING THE HARVEST OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SEPARATE PLOTS OF POPPIES SPREAD OVER SOME VERY RUGGED TERRAIN. NEVERTHELESS, THEY SEEM TO BE CONVINCED THAT THE BASIC HONESTY OF THE

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VILLAGE FARMER REINFORCED BY THE DIFFICULTY OF CARRYING OUT A SECRET OPERATION IN A VILLAGE SOCIETY AND BY THE PRESENCE OF INSPECTION TEAMS FROM ANKARA WILL KEEP ANY GREAT AMOUNT OF OPIUM FROM FALLING INTO ILLEGAL CHANNELS THIS YEAR.

SMITH

UNQUOTE  
BERGUS

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM  
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